

Using the Suicide Data Worksheet

We have included two data tools that you can use to analyze your local suicide data. The pivot table workbook (SuiPivot.xls) contains county-specific suicide data for all California counties from 1996 through 2001. By following the instructions on the “Instructions” tab, you can automatically generate a full report of suicide and self-inflicted injury hospitalizations based on California EPIC branch data (described below).

The user-specific workbook (SuiWorksheetBlank.xls) is set up for the user to enter their own data, and may be preferable for jurisdictions that keep their own suicide and self-inflicted injury data.

This worksheet was designed to help local health professionals analyze and display suicide data for their own jurisdictions. Simply enter the appropriate data, and it will calculate rates, and display your data in a meaningful way. After you enter the appropriate data, the worksheet will calculate rates and create charts. Your data goes into the worksheets entitled “Suicide Rates” for completed suicides, and “Attempt Rates” for hospital discharges.

1. Suicide Rates: Enter the appropriate data by age and gender for suicides under the “Suicide” column, and population data in the “Population” column.
2. Attempt Rates: Enter the appropriate data by age and gender for hospital discharges under the “Attempts” column, and population data in the “Population” column.

If this data is not readily available to you, it can be accessed at the following websites:

Suicide and Attempt data: see the California DHS EPIC Branch data website: www.applications.dhs.ca.gov/epicdata/default.htm

Populations data: available at the California Department of Finance Website: www.dof.ca.gov.

Note about these data:

California EPIC suicide data consists of data from the California vital statistics master file on suicides by place of residence, regardless of whether the suicide actually happened in the same county, so it may be different from some local data that includes all deaths that occurred in the county.

Data on attempts from the California Department of Health Services is taken from hospital discharges, and so does not include any attempts that were not hospitalized, or where the patient denied suicidal ideation.

Population projections from the California Department of Finance as of this writing were calculated from the 1990 census, and may be different from the 2000 census findings. While some data are available from the 2000 census, it is important to use caution when comparing rates calculated for previous years before they are adjusted to the current census.